

MARY D. GRIFFITHS.

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JANUARY 27, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. ANDERSON, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 9402.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9402) granting a pension to Mary D. Griffiths, having carefully considered the facts presented, respectfully report:

The beneficiary, Mary D. Griffiths, is a resident of Louisville, Ky., to which place she went in 1860. On the evening of November 14, 1864, about 8 o'clock p. m., while returning from a visit to her brother's, on the pike road from Louisville to Bardstown, when she was shot by one Charles Davenport, a private of the Fourteenth Kentucky Infantry, who was intoxicated. The ball passed through both legs just below the hips, and the left leg was amputated at the hip joint, and she had no power in the right leg for nine months after the injury was received, the bone being badly shattered, and has been a dependent, helpless cripple ever since.

The soldier was imprisoned in the State penitentiary for inflicting the injury for one year.

At time of receiving the injury the beneficiary (then Mary Douglas) was working for Samuel Ross, and had no means of her own; was at the time engaged to be married to William R. Griffiths, who was with her at the time she was shot. He married her and maintained her until his death, in 1867.

After her husband's death she was supported by her brother until he died, May 23, 1879, and since that time, after exhausting the little means left by her brother, she has been dependent upon charity. She was cared for in the Home of the Friendless, at Louisville, for some time.

Bills for her relief were introduced in the Forty-sixth Congress, but nothing came of them, the circumstances being without a precedent in legislative relief.

The applicant is now 68 years of age, destitute, and a permanently helpless cripple from the injuries so received, without any fault or negligence on her part, and your committee believe that from the circumstances the Government should provide means for her maintenance during the remaining years of her life, and therefore recommend the passage of the bill without amendment.

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BY [illegible]

IN [illegible]

THE [illegible] OF [illegible]

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